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BULLETIN

A publication of the East African Natural History Society, Box 44486, Nairobi, Kenya. Price 10 shillings.

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NOTICE

At the Annual General Meeting of the Society held on 18 March 1985, it was resolved that in future the *Bulletin* will appear quarterly and since we have already published two issues this year, there will another three issues in 1985, one in June, one in August and one in November; from January 1986 however, there will be four issues per annum, in February, May, August and November. Reference to the *Bulletin* will remain the same for the rest of 1985, but in 1986 each issue will bear a number. So, for 1985 please observe the present convention - *EANHS Bulletin* 1985: page number. From January 1986 it will become - *EANHS Bulletin* 16 (1): page number, as the *Bulletin* first appeared in January 1971.

As a result of this decision the Monthly Newsletter has been resuscitated and will be circulated to local members only. It will contain information on Society Functions, advertisements etc. Indeed local members will have already received the first two Newsletters and we hope that this arrangement will prove satisfactory.

Contributions to the *Bulletin* should be sent to the Editor, Box 24734, Nairobi and notices for sale and wanted to the Secretary EANHS, Box 44486, Nairobi.

Contributions to the *Bulletin* from members or any other interested parties are welcomed. Ideally articles should fit in to the following categories:

1. Detailed articles on a specific aspect of Natural History
2. Short notes/observations of general interest on any aspect of Natural History.
3. Letters to the Editor.
4. Descriptive articles of Society Functions - lectures, expeditions. camping trips etc.

It would be a great help if articles could be typed, preferably in double spacing.

Editor .

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UGANDA REVISITED - ENTEBBE NOTES

Uganda is a world of mountains, forests, lakes and wildlife, its ecological affinities with the equatorial rain forests of West Africa but without the debilitating heat and humidity. This is because Uganda is mostly high in elevation, especially near the lakes. The Ruwenzori or Mountains of the Moon on the western border, though directly on the equator, are snowclad. Margherita Peak is 5 109 m. Mount Elgon, astride the Kenya-Uganda border, is equally impressive, reaching over 4 200 m. Kampala, on Lake Victoria, is at an elevation of 1219 m with a year round springtime climate.

Much of Uganda is lushly verdant and forested, or was until recently. The various forests bear delightfully exotic names - Budongo, Bwamba, Bwimbi, Kibale, Kalinzu, Mabira, Maramagambo, Mpanga, and the vast Impenetrable (Bwimbi) Forest of Kigesi, home of the Mountain Gorilla. Many species of birds which are found in both East Africa and the eastern region of West Africa occur in these forests, either as the only locality in East Africa or in several instances are totally indigenous. Here too one finds chimpanzees and monkeys including Black and White Colobus, Blue Monkey, Red Colobus, Red-tailed and of course the ubiquitous baboons, as well as several other species.

There are now four National Parks; Lake Mburo National Park, the newest, was formally inaugurated in 1984. The names of the others, dating from the pre-independence period, were changed during the Amin decade but have now reverted to the original names. They are: Queen Elizabeth National Park, on Lake Edward in the south-west, famous for its lions, Uganda Kob, waterbuck, hippo and elephants (these considerably reduced in the last decade but recovering nicely); Murchison Falls National Park, on the Nile near Lake Albert (L. Mobutu), the best remaining place in East Africa, and possibly in the whole of Africa, to see crocodiles which occur in great numbers below the falls. The Murchison elephants were also drastically reduced, but here too, as in the Queen Elizabeth Park, they are recovering, though in all the national parks crocodile, hippo, elephant and some of the other species continue to suffer from poaching activities. However, a vigorous anti-poaching effort under the direction of the parks' office led by Captain Frank Poppleton, long-time warden in Uganda, is greatly reducing this threat to the wildlife. Only a few short years ago Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls National Parks together constituted the major tourist attraction in Uganda, bringing into the country the third largest source of income. The third park, Kidepo Valley National Park is remote and hauntingly beautiful, located in the far north of the country on the Sudan border. It is in the arid sector of Uganda and contains vast herds of animals such as zebra, giraffe and the various antelope. Finally, Lake Mburo National Park, Uganda's newest, is less than a year old. It is between Kampala and Mbarara, nearer than the other parks to Lake Victoria and has the only herds of impala, eland and zebra in that region. Ecologically and faunistically each of the four national parks is unique, with very different scenery and "special" kinds of animals.

In the years prior to independence in 1962, the primary biological research activity in Uganda centred around a study of the many lakes and swamps and was conducted at Makarere University College (as it was then called) under the guidance of Professor L.C. Beadle of Zoology and Professor Edna Lind of Botany. After his retirement in the sixties, Professor Beadle returned for several years to direct the activities of the International Biological Programme study of tropical lakes productivity at the station on Lake George. In this same period the Nuffield Unit of Tropical Animal Ecology was established in Queen Elizabeth National Park at Mweya. During its ten-year life (1961-1971), N.U.T.A.E. was largely staffed and administered by expatriates, mostly from the United Kingdom and also some visiting Fulbright scientists from America,

who had earlier laid the groundwork in the fifties for the studies that were to occupy the attention of N.U.T.A.E. biologists for a decade - the large herbivores, elephant, hippo, buffalo and several antelopes including kob, waterbuck and topi. In 1971, Makerere University took over the responsibility of N.U.T.A.E.. and it is now the Uganda Institute of Ecology under the able direction of Dr Eric Edroma.

A little known bit of history is that in 1967-1970 another biological station was almost established across Hippo Bay (the arm of Lake Edward between Mweya and Katwe) at Kabatoro. This was the Kiboko Ziwani Biological Station, a project of ourselves and some American Zoologists from various universities. It was not designed to compete with N.U.T.A.E but to complement it as a centre for biologists and students, from abroad as well as Ugandans, to use as a base for field studies and classes. It was abruptly terminated at the onset of the Amin period.

My love affair with Africa began a long time ago and in rather a strange way. Forty two years ago I first stepped from a landing craft on North African soil, in September 1943, our forces landing under cover of darkness. We were on a Tunisian beach not far from Bizerte. Dawn came early and bright on that beach. My first African birds were Eurasian Bee-eaters flying along the beach and Yellow Wagtails, also migrants, running on the shore. The North African coast was accumulating autumn migrants; overhead were long lines of cranes and storks and flocks of swallows and small birds. It was here during those first few weeks that I saw my first European birds - Robins, confiding little orange-chested birds, that were so tame they would alight nearly at my feet. An old acquaintance in Bizerte was the House Sparrow. Their untidy nests filled the palms outside the buildings. New species in the palms were the European Goldfinches, bright gold and black, their red faces forming distinctive rings around the bases of their ivory-white bills. In the following months I saw many new birds and was kept busy in spare moments sketching and sometimes painting them. There were no field guides to African birds in those days, so I could not identify a good many that I saw and sketched.

Exactly fifteen years elapsed before I once more touched down on African soil. Our family of five arrived in Uganda in September, 1958. I was to be at Makerere University for one year on a Fulbright award, at the invitation of Professor Beadle of Zoology, to participate in the on-going study of tropical lake ecosystems as a malacologist. We landed at Entebbe airport, made famous to the entire world during the Amin regime. Entebbe peninsula is a wildlife sanctuary jutting into the north side of Lake Victoria. It has a staggering array of tropical plants and animals, especially birds. Among the latter are the Black and White Casqued Hornbills, giant beaks followed by huge bodies, their wings making loud "whooshing" sounds, accompanied by extremely raucous nasal calls that bring to mind toy trumpets or Halloween noise-makers. I had read Dr Lawrence Killam's study of these birds, done while he was at the Entebbe Virus Research Institute in the early 1950's, but still I was unprepared for the grandeur of these magnificent birds, my first hornbills.

The Entebbe Botanical Gardens spread over much of the end of the peninsula, with paths and formally laid out sections devoted to plants from all over the tropical world, in those days all properly labelled. In our year at Makerere we made regular visits to these beautiful gardens, particularly at weekends when we would bring a picnic lunch, spread a cloth on the ground and eat while staring up into the trees with our binoculars attempting to identify all the strange birds that we saw. Equally difficult was to try to learn, even a fraction of the trees, shrubs and vines in the botanical garden, but we made a serious effort to do so. That first delightful year in Uganda came to a close all too abruptly and we left determined to return some day.

We did return. As I write it is 1985 and twenty seven years have passed

since we arrived at Entebbe in 1958. But the gap is not that long. In 1966 we returned to Uganda and remained until 1971, teaching at Makerere University. Uganda had achieved her Independence in 1962 and it was a somewhat different country, even more delightful. Only the tragic Amin years prevented us from being in Uganda much longer. Now we are back a THIRD TIME, again teaching at Makerere University. The Zoology Department has an exciting project funded through UNESCO-UNDP and other sources such as AWF etc., aimed at revitalizing the national parks and the wildlife with the hope of restoring tourism in Uganda, once the third major source of revenue. We are training young Africans, particularly Ugandans, as wildlife ecologists because of the urgent need to ensure a healthy recovery of the wildlife in Uganda from the ravages of the last decade or so. Eventually, we hope to train, here or abroad, national parks administrators and park naturalists for the job of performing the services required of a country that hosts a large tourist population.

My wife and I are in the Entebbe Botanical gardens sitting beneath a huge *Piptadeniastrum* tree. Now many of the trees are no longer labelled with their scientific names and where they come from, but we learned them years ago when they were. Tropical birds are often difficult but tropical trees are truly bewildering! Most are tall with dense foliage too high to make out leaf detail and many without distinctive bark. Compounding the problem, a tropical tree isn't just a tree, it is a botanical garden. The trunk is often covered with climbing vines and its crevices are filled with ferns, orchids, mistletoe and other epiphytes. Outside our cottage is a large Orchid Tree *Bauhinia*. I counted four different ferns and several different lichens on the first ten metres of the trunk .... in addition, there is a large clump of some *Oxalis*. A lovely pink *Bougainvillea* covered with blossoms (actually bracts) and on larger horizontal limbs are orchids (unidentified, not blooming) and a huge *Platycerium* fern. In the crown the orange-red blossoms of the mistletoe *Phragmenthera* occur as splashes of colour and the tree also supports a small strangler fig whose branches form a confusing jungle of intertwined leaves; finally, this particular tree is a favourite roost for a flock of snowy-white Cattle Egrets (Buff-backed Herons) that come in at sunset.

We are seated at our favourite spot in the garden, near the strip of natural "jungle", the locale of at least one Hollywood Tarzan film in the fifties. It is perpetually shady in the jungle and long lianas hang from the trees, inviting one to swing from them. A tiny brook trickles through its centre. We look up and see Green Pigeons feeding quietly on the fruit of the *Musanga* tree and a momentary flash of scarlet reveals a Double-toothed Barbet. Then several small greenish-yellow birds fly in that remind us of vireos from America. They are not related to vireos and are Yellow White-eyes. Suddenly a loud WHEEEOOO instantly followed or overlapped by an equally emphatic CHURRRR directs our eyes to a striking black and scarlet Gonolek, presumably the originator of the first call while its mate who responded with a churrrr is lurking somewhere nearby. My wife figures that all gonoleks must be nervous wrecks because when one utters its explosive WHEEEOOO, lasting less than a second, the mate must respond instantly with an answering CHURRRR so they actually overlap. In dense vegetation it may function as a location call ... "I'm here, where are you?", with the instant response "here" ...

Many shrikes, thrushes and other African birds indulge in these antiphonal responses and duets, sometimes quite complicated. Two White-browed Robin Chats sit facing each other; one sings wheeer, wheeer, wheeer, WHEEER, WHEEER, WHEEER, while the mate is singing at the same time in ever increasing volume, kookalet, kookalet, kookalet, KOOKALET, KOOKALET, KOOOOOKALEEEEE, KOOOOKALEEEE, so throbbingly rhythmic that the entire thing seems produced by a single bird. Uganda gardens ring with these marvellously enchanting songs for much of the year.

We are barely aware of the monotonously repetitive note of a Lemon-rumped Tinkerbird's call, tok-tok-tok-tok-tok.... tok-tok-tok-tok.... a tiny bird constantly heard but seldom seen. Almost in reply is the rhythmic call of a Red-eyed Dove, seeming to repeat its name ... COOOO..COOO.. CUK,COO-COO-COO (I..am.. a red-eyed dove). The relative serenity is suddenly broken by tne wildly demented screams of a pair of Grey Plantain-eaters that begin with dog-like barks and finish with a descending cascade of crazed laughter. They are in a large 'Mvule' *Chlorophora* tree and we also see that in it are several of Plantain-eater's relatives, Ross's Turacos, gaudy birds with deeply blue bodies, scarlet crests and, when they fly, equally red wings that produce a startling contrast to their dark bodies in flight. Before the day ended we were to see still another of the turacos, the Great Blue Turaco, largest of them all, with a blue back and wings, mustard yellow below and a long blue and yellow tail with a black band at the end.

Africa is the continent of kingfishers of enormous variety. As we sit, the loud calls of Woodland Kingfishers ring out across the botanical garden. Earlier we almost missed seeing a diminutive Pygmy Kingfisher sitting in a bush along the path we used. Like many very tiny birds, they probably consider that to sit perfectly motionless is the most effective way to remain undiscovered. Among the papyrus along the lake shore below us is an almost equally small kingfisher, the Malachite, perched on the prow of a dug-out canoe, while out from the shore five noisy Pied Kingfishers hover in the air, then dive headlong for fish, a delight to watch them in their contrasting black and white plumage.

We are watching a small flock of Speckled Mousebirds in an *Erythrina* when suddenly a Pygmy Falcon bursts out of nowhere and dives, scattering them. Mousebirds look rather like waxwings (of northern zones) with crests and extremely long, attenuated tails. They huddle together at night, presumably for warmth, a balled up cluster of tightly crowded bodies with pointed tails sticking out at odd angles in all directions.

Watching sunbirds is one of the pleasant experiences of the 'birder' in Uganda. There are dozens of different species of sunbirds, and they occur everywhere, from the arid thornbush semi-desert to the arctic-alpine zone on the highest mountains. In the Entebbe botanical gardens there are several kinds of sunbirds, perhaps the most abundant being the Red-chested Sunbird which presently we watched as it almost disappeared inside the tubular flower of a yellow *Thevetia* bush. Hovering above a red Canna bed was the Copper Sunbird and singing loudly but remaining invisible in a bush was an Olive-bellied Sunbird, its song always reminding us of that of an American Wood Warbler, the Tennessee Warbler.

The mention of American birds suddenly draws our attention to an American Robin pecking on the ground nearby. Impossible - it is the African Thrush, a close relative. It looks like an American Robin but sounds much like an American Mockingbird, with rapidly repeated short phrases following one another in succession. Another African thrush is the Northern Olive Thrush that both look like and sounds like an American Robin. The song of the African Thrush is the one most common in Uganda gardens while, in our experience, that of the Olive Thrush is the more common one heard in Kenya gardens.

It is nearly 6 p.m. and the end of a perfectly beautiful Uganda day - but then we have learned to expect such days in almost endless succession, sometimes glad that most of the world seems largely oblivious of this garden spot of the globe. True, there is still a security problem but one cannot escape the feeling that the entire world these days is a somewhat insecure place. Now we must make the 37 km trip by our Vespa scooter back to Kampala before dark, so we must hurry. Reluctantly, we descend the stone steps to our scooter parked at the foot of the tiny waterfall. We stop and examine a tiny tree frog on a leaf. It is *Leptopelis notatus christyi*, a guilty reminder

of the fact that we have never completed for publication our field guide to East African amphibians and reptiles, begun long ago in the 1960's.
Six Grey Parrots fly into an *Antiaris* tree by the road and settle, probably for the night. Searching for them, we discover several Black and White Colobus monkeys staring silently down at us from the same tree. Rasping calls and a fluffing sound of wings tell us that a flock of Splendid Glossy Starlings were also settling for the night in a thick clump of *Dendrobium* vines that climbed the tree. When I start the motor of the scooter it frightens a small band of attractive vervet monkeys that have watched from a safe distance. They scamper off in twos and threes, lean-hipped youngsters gambolling after their elders and babies clinging to the fur of their mothers' backs. Winding our way out of the gardens we are again reminded of the often quoted words of Sir Winston Churchill, who first visited Uganda in 1901, coming by the then new Uganda railroad from the coast. He said, "Uganda is a fairy tale. You climb up a railroad instead of a beanstalk ... and at the end is a wonderful new world."

John D. Goodman, Zoology Department, Makerere University, Box 7062, Kampala.

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KITUM CAVE - MOUNT ELGON

While in Kitum Cave, Mt. Elgon National Park, on 19 and 20 January 1985 a great change was noticed. The roof of the back part of the cave has collapsed. The fallen material seems to have filled all the rooms at the back of the cave except those that branch off to the right (north). The new material begins about 100 metres from the cave entrance and is fresh with new sparkling crystals all the way to the back wall. No bat colonies were in the new area but the small colonies in the fore-part of the cave had many more bats than I had seen that close to the mouth of the cave before. There was no accumulation of bat guano on the new material, but a few elephant droppings near the front edge. The elephants have used one area of the front right corner of the new fall to stand on while tusking the new exposed roof above the branch to one of the side chambers.

The fall must be recent, for the crystals exposed from the cavities of petrified logs in the ceiling are not yet covered with dust. The amber needles of natrolite (in the Zeolite group) and the dark brown calcite crystals are very beautiful. Soon they will be covered with dust and guano. Be careful of putting your hand down for balance aid while on the loose new rocks. For the natrolite needles are everywhere and they stick in your fingers. A small piece of the roof fell while I was photographing the crystals on the 20th. Other pieces are cracked and clinging to the roof by unknown security.

An earthquake was felt at AUEA, Baraton, near Kapsabet at about 3.30 p.m. on 13 January 1985. A stronger earthquake was heard coming from the north-east at 10.15 p.m. on 17 February 1984. Does anyone from Kitale know more about earthquakes in the Mt. Elgon area around Christmas time or could provide information helping to date the collapse? Please contact me.

Another note from Mt. Elgon: On the evening of 19 January I saw a very large Serval Cat *Felis serval* on the road between the entrances to the Chelulus Valley Circuit and near the Rongai Campsite. Sitting facing away in the head-lights it looked as big as a cheetah but was obviously a serval when it got up and walked into the Acanthus.

Larry Siemens, Adventist University of East Africa, Box 2500, Eldoret.

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CAMAROPTERA COURTSHIP

One of the most common birds in my garden at Makerere University, Kampala, is the Grey-backed Camaroptera *Camaroptera brachyura*. One is used to their generally retiring ways. But on 5 March my attention was suddenly drawn to a performance by a pair of these birds which was new to me.

They were uttering a noise like a mechanical chattering, whilst chasing each other at high speed through the vegetation. This performance continued almost non-stop for several minutes. The second bird, presumably the male, kept close behind the leader. Finally the female perched, with her wings shimmering, whilst the male flew up and down, almost vertically, hovering behind her through a vertical distance of about a metre, many times. It reminded me of a yo-yo. The female maintained her wing shimmering until after some 2 or 3 minutes the male mounted her. Copulation was brief, and was followed by the male flying off, still chattering at first.

Mackworth-Praed and Grant (Volume 2 p.439) quotes an observation by Pakenham on the Green-backed Camaroptera (now considered to be a race of the Grey-backed) - "a curious presumably nuptial flight .... the bird swerving, swooping and diving all the time uttering a quick little snapping or clicking noise".

Perhaps others have seen similar things?

D.E. Pomeroy, Makerere University, Box 7062, Kampala.

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SIAFU ALARM

On 20 May, 1981 I was alerted by very excited chatter (scolding) from a pair of Northern Pied Babblers *Turdoides hypoleuca*. They were crowding around a drum planted with some creepers. On closer examination, noted a mass of siafu *Dorylus anommea* on the surface of the soil in the tub. The babblers did not eat any of the ants. This is the first time I had noted birds giving alarm calls, or so it seemed, on noticing these ants. Has anyone else observed anything similar in the behaviour of this or any other species of birds? Would this behaviour be classed with the mobbing of a predator, as these ants may constitute a danger to young birds?

Anon.

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HATCHING OF SPIDERS

The following observations on the duration of hatching in spiders (probably of the Order Selenopidae) were made on two occasions in 1983.

a. Early April	Eggsac noted on wooden door frame of animal cage.
11 April	Adult spider inside sac, legs sticking out, then disappears inside, probably laying eggs. Emerges from bottom of sac.
16 April	Adult near eggsac.
22 April	Sac intact, no spider near. Eggs were at first concentrated at bottom, now seem all over the inside of sac.
7 May	Movement inside sac of hatchlings.
10 May	No movement of hatchlings in sac. Never emerged.

b. 28 May Eggsac with eggs on wooden frame of animal cage, adult nearby.
2 June Spider near sac.
7 June Sac full, no adult nearby.
9 June Sac full, adult nearby.
14 June Hatchlings moving in sac.
18 June Hatchlings gone from the sac.

It seems that hatching takes about two to three weeks from egg laying.

Anon. Both these short notes were left in the Society Office with no name or address of the author.

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CHEETAH IN NAKURU NATIONAL PARK

On 2 February 1985 at about 11 a.m. I spotted four adult size cheetah *Acinonyx jubatus*, resting under a tree between Anasoit Hill and Naishi House in Lake Nakuru National Park. They were much more shy than the cheetah in other parks and moved almost immediately. I followed them for about 20 minutes as they walked along the lower edge of a rock ridge. Something in the rocks startled them and they watched the area for some time and then moved on.

Are cheetah often seen in Nakuru park?

Larry Siemens, Adventist University of East Africa, Box 2500, Eldoret.

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ADOPT A RHINO !

Adopt a Rhino for a month, or make a waterhole, or feed a baby rhino, or just contribute to saving the Rhino from extinction.

Elsewhere in this *Bulletin* we have described some of the work carried out by Mrs Anna Merz in her singular effort to save the rhino. As more and more wilderness areas become settled and unsuitable habitats for wild animals, sanctuary becomes more necessary. Land has been given for such a sanctuary for some of the remaining Black Rhinos, where they can live in safety until such time as the myths about the properties of rhino horn have been exploded and poaching is no longer profitable. Then they can be let out into the parks where they are now depleted. Anna Merz has provided for creating the sanctuary at Lewa Downs, but now needs some help. The costs of capturing threatened rhinos in the wild, transporting them to the sanctuary and keeping them in holding bomas until they quieten down and become accustomed to *not* being hunted are enormous. So also are the costs of patrolling to make the sanctuary safe, upkeep of the fence, and providing trackers with radios, etc. The fence around the whole sanctuary of about 2500 hectares has already been paid for and provided with solar energy of high voltage which it is hoped will keep out poachers, but more funds are needed to take care of rhinos in outlying mountainous areas, so that they can be guarded until they can be moved or sanctuary can be provided on the spot. If more funds become available, it is hoped to increase the area of the sanctuary, and projects are in hand to develop the present sanctuary by planting more shrubs and improving the land for rhino, so that more animals can be moved in and to lessen the effects of drought, should it occur again.

Available funds have been stretched to the limit, so if you can help -

even in a small way - please consider it seriously. All funds received go straight to helping to save the rhino. Mrs Merz can provide further details, if members write to her c/o Lewa Downs Ltd., Private Bag, P.O. Isiolo.

Tim and Lise Campbell, Box 14469, Nairobi.

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RED-CHESTED CUCKOO

At the invitation of my cousin - Doris Harries of Thika - I was happily able to miss one of the coldest winters on record in Britain, arriving in Kenya on 7 February.

Being a member of the R.S.P.B. I am always delighted by the incredible variety of colourful birds of all shapes and sizes which can be seen from "my" window.

There is a white bougainvillaea bush and an *Erythrina* tree with scarlet flowers only a few metres away. The latter has - not only a profusion of tiny fairylike white orchids - but also bare branches.

I know well the distinctive call of the "Rain Bird" or Red-chested Cuckoo (who doesn't?!) but had read, and was told, that it was seldom seen.

However, on 6 April 1985 the familiar call seemed almost inside my room! On looking out, there sat this elusive bird on one of those bare branches in bright sunlight. It was larger than I had expected being between 35cm/39cm overall.

It stayed the first time for over an hour, flying down at intervals to catch a "dudu" and then returning to the same branch. In the sunshine its back always appeared - not grey - but a most attractive blue. It sat upright each time - like a parrot - and not leaning forward like a pigeon, as illustrated in most bird books at which I have since looked.

When facing me the head and neck were blue/grey; the upper part of the chest rufous in colour, giving way to very definite black and white barring and merging into buff, while its feet were bright orange.

The bird preened itself leisurely and I was privileged to watch and see the fanning of its tail - just like a lady's delicate fan - each black tail feather bearing about four distinctive white dots the size of a shirt button.

This same bird arrived for five consecutive days, three times each day, early morning, round mid-day and somewhere between 4 and 5 p.m. My cousin's daughter, Moira, complete with camera, unfortunately just missed the bird by minutes on several occasions.

Each day on arrival, the bird called only once "bowing" as it is called. Then on leaving it uttered a different call - a repeated sound of about five syllables - all on one note.

Only once, on the fourth day, did a second slightly smaller "Rain Bird" arrive when the pair flew off immediately.

Since then the rains have come, but 'our' Rain Bird has *not* returned to its perch, but three of us at Karamaini could not have had a better view.

Joan Wottleton, c/o Mrs Harries, Box 40, Thika.

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COLOUR-RINGED GREENSHANK

A colour-ringing project on Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* is being undertaken in southern Africa and any sightings of these birds in our area will be most useful in helping to understand Greenshank migration in Africa. The colour rings are on the tibia ('thigh'). Observers should note which leg bears the colour rings and the order in which the rings occur (green above black, left leg, for example). The birds are also ringed with single metal numbered rings on the tarsus - you may see this if the bird is on dry land. Should you see a colour-ringed Greenshank, please note the date and place (as accurately as possible) and send all details to me. All letters will be acknowledged and ringing details forwarded

Graeme Backhurst, Ringing Organizer EANHS, Box 24702, Nairobi.

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THE SIXTH P.A.O.C.

A very successful 6th Pan-African Ornithological congress was held in Francistown, Botswana, from 29 March to 5 April, 1985. The majority of the 136 delegates were from the southern part of the continent but a number travelled from as far north as Ethiopia, Mali and Senegal, and there were also several participants from Europe, North America and one from Australia. The ten representatives from East Africa included three young Kenya ornithologists, Nathan and Cecilia Gichuki and Hussein Adan.

The venue was the Marang Hotel, situated just outside the town in attractive grounds in acacia country beside a dry river bed. Since practically all the delegates were housed in a variety of accommodation at the one site, the occasion proved to be a very stimulating one with excellent opportunities for personal contact and informal discussion. Those who, like the Kenya delegates, arrived a day early were able to explore the local surroundings and acquaint themselves with a number of new and attractive southern African birds. Groundscraper Thrush, Kurrichane Thrush, Pied Babblers, Southern Black Tit, Cordon Bleu and Magpie Shrike were easily seen in the hotel grounds, and Cape Starling, Tit-babbler, Burntnecked Eremomela, Levaillant's (Crested) Barbet and White-throated Ground Robin were soon identified in the thicket along the river bank. Those, like the author, with an eye for migrants were intrigued to find so many Red-backed Shrikes, Marsh Warblers and Whitethroats still present so far south.

The meeting began with an opening dinner during which welcoming speeches were made by the Congress Chairman, Dr Gerard Morel, by Nigel Hunter, Chairman of the local organising committee and by Don Turner who had masterminded most of the congress logistics. Then followed five busy days of science and discussion. Over fifty papers were presented, most of them dealing with topics concerning breeding, feeding and energy budgetting, distribution and conservation. The International Council for Bird Preservation contributed heavily to the programme. Its Chairman, Dr Ian Prestt from UK, was present and the organisation helped to fund the travel expenses of some of the delegates from Kenya and one from Nigeria. The last afternoon was devoted to a special session on the conservation work of ICBP in Africa, and our attention was focussed on some of the more serious problems, such as desertification, forest destruction, indiscriminate pesticide use, the export of bustards to the Middle East and threats to migratory birds.

Scientific contributions from Kenya included an account of Lesser Honeyguide-barbet interactions by Professor Lester Short and Jennifer Horne;

details of the annual cycle of the African Citril and of the breeding biology of Speke's Weaver by Nathan and Cecilia Gichuki respectively, and a review of Palaearctic passerine migration through Northeast Africa by Dr David Pearson. There were many impromptu meetings of special interest groups to discuss such diverse topics as crane conservation, regional bird journals and atlas recording systems some of which were very useful for the Kenya participants.

The unrelenting efforts of the local Botswana organising group and the Marang Hotel ensured that a variety of transport was available for early morning and late afternoon runs to local dams, mopane woodland sites and other nearby high spots. Such species as Boulder Chat, Striped Pipit, Familiar Chat and Olive-tree Warbler were quickly added to lists. A River Warbler which lurked in a bush 400 metres from the hotel gave many people a hard time, but was finally lured into sight on the last morning by a recording of snatches of its own song. A one-day break mid way through the Congress provided a chance for participants to travel further afield, and many set off before 5 a.m. on expeditions west to the grassy flooded pans towards central Botswana, the fortunate being rewarded with sightings of southwest African larks, Black Koorhan and Wattled Crane amongst others.

At a meeting of delegates towards the end of the week, the question of the future of the Congress was discussed at length. Virtually all considered that regular opportunities for professionals and amateurs to meet together to discuss African ornithology were invaluable. It was agreed that the PAOC should continue to meet every four years, and specifically in the year half way between International Ornithological Congresses, so that the 7th PAOC should be held in 1988. Most felt that the next meeting ought to be held much further north in Africa, and by an overwhelming majority delegates chose Nairobi as the venue. We can now plan and look forward to a meeting on our home ground here in Kenya. We should envisage the involvement of our own Society amongst others in the organisation of this occasion and can, I believe, anticipate a successful meeting with wide international participation.

David Pearson, Box 30197, Nairobi.

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REVIEW

DEFORESTATION IN UGANDA. By A.C. Hamilton, 1984.
Nairobi: Oxford University Press.

The term deforestation denotes the total clearing of natural tree formations and their replacement by other use of the land such as agriculture, new human settlements, road or dam construction, etc. There are however, other less radical alterations of forests which can cause degradation and depletion but which are not normally referred to as directly implying deforestation. In Africa, shifting cultivation is known to be responsible for 70% of its deforestation. Uganda is blessed to be among those few African countries with beautiful tropical rain forests and such climatic conditions now existing in few parts of the continent. The rate of annual deforestation of the forests in Uganda during the last 20 years has been comparatively high, and hence the need for scientists to show some concern.

Dr Hamilton has in this, his new book, brought out some fascinating information about the current deforestation problems in Uganda. He has the most up-to-date data on the current status of the forests in the country as well as its environmental trends. In order to give the reader a clear picture of the deforestation trends in Uganda, the author has candidly discussed in one chapter the forests in the country between 1898 (the period

of the establishment of British rule) and 1972, and in another chapter the forest situation between 1972 and 1982. His concluding chapter is on the future of forestry in Uganda and states clearly that "visions of vast sweeps of mahogany-rich jungles, such as are entertained by some planners, are quite illusory". The book is well illustrated with maps and landsat photographs. It is good reading material.

J.O. Kokwaro, Box 30197, Nairobi.

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EXCURSION TO BUSHWHACKER'S CAMP, KIBWEZI

The Society trip to Bushwhacker's Camp, Kibwezi at the end of February (how time flies!) was a very successful occasion with all the bandas booked up in advance and even a few camps in evidence. With the recent rains, the river was wide and full but apart from footprints, hippo were not in evidence. Neither, unfortunately, were the crocodiles which Jane Stanton had observed some weeks previously. These aside, there was still much around to keep us busy over the weekend as bird species were searched out in the field guide and numerous blooming flowers plucked for later identification.

On the bird front our tally reached 111 species and contained some interesting sightings. Our search for Pel's Fishing Owl, which had been observed on the river about 18 months previously (Schluter & Harcourt *EANHS Bulletin* 1984: 26), was unsuccessful but we were rewarded with good views of a small party of Violet Wood Hoopoes. It was interesting that both the Green and Violet Wood Hoopoes occur sympatrically in this area and it took some time to get the birds in clear view with the sun at the correct angle to confirm the colour pattern. Another interesting bird, the Zanzibar Sombre Greenbul, was seen on a number of occasions. Normally a bird associated with coastal thickets, this species makes its way inland as in this case, along the river systems. There were fine views of the resident pair of Verreaux'z Eagles, soaring over the hill opposite the camp and other birds of prey included Brown Snake Eagle, Bataleur, Wahlberg's Eagle, Fish Eagle and a dramatic fleeting glimpse of the underside of an African Hawk Eagle, swooping low over the bandas. The cuckoos were well represented with Didric, Klaas', Black and White, African and Red-chested all being seen. On the migrants front, the Spotted Flycatcher was much in evidence around the camp and there was a good view one afternoon of a White Wagtail which luckily stayed around for long enough to allow comparison with its resident counterpart, the African Pied Wagtail. A particularly stunning sight was a tree full of Orange-bellied Parrots and a resting pair of Green Pigeons.

Perhaps the most memorable sighting from my point of view, occurred one morning from the comfort of the 'long-drop'. A pleasant twenty minutes was spent watching a female sand wasp busily excavating a deep hole in the sandy soil. She passed sand between her hind and front legs and swept it away with vigorous kicks from her hind legs, larger obstructions were deftly dragged out with her jaws and dropped a small distance away after a brief flight. The excavation complete, a large paralysed caterpillar was already on hand and this was dragged down to the depths and the egg deposited. The refilling sequence was much faster but completed in meticulous fashion leaving not a trace of the entire operation.

Our sincere thanks must go to Jane Stanton who did so much behind the scenes to ensure that the trip went smoothly. To anyone reading this account who has not been to Bushwhacker's I can thoroughly recommend it as a lovely place to spend a weekend.

Graham Reid, Box 40658, Nairobi.

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY BIRD WALKS IN UGANDA

Some months ago, the Uganda members of the EANHS began monthly bird walks on the last Saturday of each month from 9 - 11 a.m. Miss Dorothy Etoori, our local representative of the Society, started these walks and conducted the first few. She then began her MSc studies in Queen Elizabeth National Park and it has fallen to others to continue them.

On Saturday, 24 February, around 15 people were on hand for the bird walk at Bahai Temple, 6 km from Kampala on Gayaza Road. It was a perfect morning and Bahai Temple is one of the scenic spots near Kampala as well as very likely to produce some interesting birds. Dr Derek Pomeroy was the group leader. Situated on a high hill with marvellous views in all directions, there are often raptors of various kinds in the vicinity. However, Lizard Buzzards and Black Kites and a single air-borne Black-shouldered Kite were the only birds of prey for the day. Grey Plantain-eaters were of course almost everywhere and we were treated to both Ross's and Great Blue Turacos. Of the LBJs (Little Brown Jobs) there were many with perhaps the Moustached Warbler the most notable and the most difficult one to finally settle on. It persisted in hiding in a field grown up in rank vegetation but finally many of us succeeded in seeing it, identified long before as that by Derek Pomeroy. Our total was 35 species for the morning.

On Saturday morning, 30 March, about an equal number of people met at the fish hatchery at Kajansi, 10 km from Kampala on the Entebbe road. Rain threatened the entire time and by 11 it was coming down in dribbles. We walked around the many fish ponds and found most of them had shore birds and water birds on them or at their edges. The trip leader was Dr John Goodman. There was a Temminck's Stint seen there a few days before by Mrs Carswell but we did not succeed in finding it. There were five or six species of swallow flying over the ponds and settling on the wires. A Little Egret, Cattle Egret, Yellow-billed Egret and a Sacred Ibis were all sitting side by side in the top of a small tree barely big enough to hold them, then someone noticed a single Long-tailed Cormorant in the back of the tree as well. Three Crowned Cranes that flew noisily into the very top of a tall tree and nine even noisier Great Blue Turacos that flew into another tree were possibly the most spectacular sights of the morning, one well spent with 51 different species seen.

John D. Goodman, Dept. of Zoology, Makerere University, Kampala.

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SOCIETY EASTER CAMPING TRIP

For the Easter holiday the Society was invited to camp on the Dyer's farm at Ngare Ndare, and all members who participated very much enjoyed it. The campsite had magnificent views to East and North (to Shaba and Ol Lolokwe) not forgetting the splendid view of Mount Kenya to the South. One morning, after a heavy shower at night, the whole mountain was covered with snow right down to about 4000m. We are indeed grateful to the Dyer family for letting us camp on and explore their farm and for laying on facilities for us.

The acacia/Commiphora woodland covering the hills was green after some rain. *Acacia mellifera* and *A. senegal* were in full flower, but flowering herbaceous plants were scarce in the stony ground of the hills, and there were signs of the recent bad drought. The narrow river valleys were lush - with some species of figs in fruit to attract birds. A collection of plants was made for the Herbarium.

Birds of prey were much in evidence though we saw no rodents and only one

snake of barely 18 cm long. There were some rarities among the birds such as Ayres Hawk Eagle *Hieraaetus dubius* and an Ovampo Sparrowhawk *Accipeter ovampensis*, which we were able to watch for quite a time. One evening we saw two Verreaux'x Eagles *Aquila verreauxii* and every day gave us sightings of several Peregrine Falcons *Falco peregrinus* - all of which came from a nearby steep gorge, which it was not possible to approach near enough to study.

Some members were lucky enough to see four Greater Kudu *Tragelaphus strepsiceros* and zebra and hyaena were heard at night.

One of the highlights of the trip was a special invitation to the nearby Rhino Sanctuary on Lewa Downs, where members saw a seven week old baby rhino who was born in the sanctuary, having its lunch. The mother had been unable to produce any milk and had abandoned the baby, who was now being bottle-fed by the creators of the sanctuary, Mr and Mrs Merz. This engaging youngster was a bit bewildered by so many people, but soon settled down to the bottle, and then went around sniffing everyone. The land for the 2000h sanctuary was provided by the Craigs of Lewa Downs and all further expenses for fencing the whole area and running the sanctuary are met by Mrs Merz. In conjunction with the Wildlife Conservation and Management Department, Mrs Merz has funded the translocation of threatened rhinos from unsuitable areas into the sanctuary. Other rhinos, which were the last of their kind in a particular area, with no hope of meeting and breeding with other rhinos have been moved, and even while we were at the sanctuary, Mrs Merz was away in the Wamba area, where a female rhino, threatened by poachers, had been darted prior to being moved into the Sanctuary.

At present there are fourteen rhinos in the Sanctuary - one of them a male White Rhino *Diceros simus* from Meru National Park where a male bred in California had recently been brought in to provide 'new blood' to the Meru herd. The rest are all Black Rhino *D. bicornis* two of which have been born in the Sanctuary. One of these is still with its mother and is at the time of writing, four weeks old; the other is the seven week old baby, which delighted members during our visit. On our tour round the Sanctuary, we saw more of the Black Rhinos and just outside the electrified fence we watched a large herd of Reticulated Giraffe *Giraffa reticulata*, and both kinds of zebra *Equus burchelli* and *E. grevyi*.

Dr Mark Collins, an entomologist from U.K. and a member of the Kora Research team was able to tell interested members about insects and scorpions, of which there are plenty in the area. (There were at least three under the writer's tent when we packed up.)

A natural swimming pool in the river provided both children and grown-ups with relaxation and cold washing water, while others - not so hardy - enjoyed hot showers in the bush.

Lise Campbell, Box 14469, Nairobi.

Dr Bill Shadel, Box 30137, Nairobi, submitted the following light-hearted version of the same trip:

Ngare Ndare Estate

It's camping by invitation only, but when the EANHS was given the opportunity to visit Tony and Rose Dyer on their Ngare Ndare Ranch (15 miles from Timau on the old Isiolo road) over the Easter Holidays, we tagged along.

Nine groups of members and their friends, led by Lise and Tim Campbell, straggled in over Thursday and Friday to the campsite perched in splendid isolation on a hill eyeball to eyeball with Mt. Kenya in the near distance and with spectacular views of the mountain ranges towards and around Isiolo further away.

In setting up our tents we spread over nearly half a hectare leaving only 13 350 for the ranch stock, but they survived our intrusion.

The group included a botanist, a 'duduologist', a bird expert (Yvonne Malcolm Coe - recently on one of the teams enduring the 24 hour assault on the world record during the bird spotting marathon), a lawyer to settle disputes about who could camp where, an artist (Tim) to immortalize the scene.

A kilometre down the slope from our summit, a permanent river complete with waterfall and a natural swimming pool was fringed by dense riverine forest with its own special complement of flora and fauna.

Impala, dik dik and baboons roamed the area, but the sighting of a Greater Kudu was a highlight even outdoing the Leopard Turtle that sprinted away at our approach.

Amidst such a group of seasoned 'birders', I was most elated to be the first to spot a Black-chested Harrier Eagle and later triumphed with a pair of Ayre's Hawk Eagles perched nearby. The fact that I initially identified them as a White-bellied Go-away-Bird and a pair of Colobus monkeys respectively did not dilute my pride of accomplishment. Having experts around is truly why we go on these Society outings, and when they kindly informed me that for all these years I have been peering through the wrong end of my binoculars, it opened a whole new world.

More serious observers found the rare Ovampo Sparrow Hawk sitting quietly in a thicket 10 yards away, and he obligingly turned around to give us a view of front and back to confirm his identity.

One day was spent in the Rhino Sanctuary a few miles away on the adjacent Lewa Downs Ranch, where we were introduced to a baby Rhino celebrating his six-week birthday with a bottle of vintage milk and vitamins. Abandoned by his mother, the owners, Mr and Mrs Merz, have undertaken the task of hand-raising and estimate it will only be six or seven years before he can manage on his own. The beastie is a bit wobbly on his feet, but who wouldn't be when two thirds of the body consists of a rather bulbous head at that age.

EANHS members have varied interests, so a few of us took off on Sunday night under a full moon for a night drive to Timau (observing Bush-babies, Heuglin's Coursers, a porcupine, and other nocturnals en route) to keep an appointment with the Safari Rally scheduled to pass from Nanyuki to Meru at 01:00 hrs. The speed demons were an hour late, but we were fortified with coffee and cognac so cheerfully applauded as matatus, support vehicles and tyre-laden trucks ambled by. Then the racers passed in such a blur only the most alert could even spot their identifying numbers. Whether that was due to their speed or our state is debatable.

One photographer attempted to take a picture of each passing car with moonlit Mt. Kenya as a backdrop, but they roared past so rapidly I believe he achieved excellent shots of three pairs of rear lights and 20 fine shots of Mt. Kenya in isolation

The weekend was a complete success, with over 80 species of birds recorded, innumerable plants identified, bugs and beetles classified or squashed depending on individual sensibilities, and the incredible burrowing ability of Thorn Tree spines into auto tyres demonstrated.

As always, Society expeditions are informative, rewarding and relaxing. Join the next one.

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CAMPING ETIQUETTE

Camping is a rare treat for most of us, as petrol is so expensive these days, so those few precious days away should be as enjoyable as possible for all of us who can participate. Simple camp rules help all of us to be happier in camp.

For example, don't put your tent right next to someone else's tent - give others breathing space. Do not please light fires to burn your rubbish; instead, bury it before you leave. Normally, to save precious pasture, we have one communal camp fire.

Finally, let us all enjoy the pleasures of nights when we can listen to the sounds of Africa without hearing transistor radios or cassettes. Leave your radio cassette at home - or, if you must hear the news, make sure you use earphones only.

Functions Organiser.

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KISUMU MUSEUM

Kisumu Museum is an ideal recreational and educational as well as a cultural centre where young and old from all wlaks of life in Western Kenya meet daily for different needs. Whereas a museum is supposed to be confined to what is actually in the museum building as exhibits, Kisumu Museum staff are frequently confronted with questions pertaining to the different kinds of plants that are found growing in the Museum grounds. As a regional museum, and one of the few scientific institutions whose scope covers both animals and plants, school children visiting the Museum would normally ask them the names of flowers, trees or the type of hedge used around the traditional homestead displayed in the Museum grounds. Presented herewith is therefore, a list of the common plants one would find in the Kisumu Museum grounds, and it is hoped that funds will be found to enable the Museum authorities to provide labels for trees as has already been done in the Nairobi Museum grounds.

BOTANICAL LIST

Botanical name	Family	English name	Luo name	Colour
Acacia brevispica	Leguminosae	Wait-a-bit thorn	Osiri	White
Acrocarpus fraxinifolius	Leguminosae	Shingle tree	-	Scarlet
Albizia coriaria	Leguminosae	-	Ober	White
Agave americana var. *marginata*	Agavaceae	Century plant	-	Dull white
Agave angustifolia var. *marginata*	Agavaceae	-	-	-
Aloe kedongensis	Lillaceae	-	Ogaka	Red
Artocarpus altilis	Moraceae	Breadfruit	-	Food plant

Bauhinia purpurea	Legiminosae	Camel's-foot tree	-	Pink/purple
Bougainvillea spectabilis	Nyctaginaceae	Bougainvilleas		
		Cypheri	-	Orange
		Elizabeth Angus		Red/pink
		Mary Palmer Alba		White
		Orange King		Orange/reddish
		Splendens		Pink
		Sweet Heart		Red/crimson
Brunfelsia calycina	Solanaceae	Yesterdat today & tomorrow	-	Lavendar/white
Carica papaya	Caricaceae	Papaya	Popo	Food plant
Euphorbia tirucalli	Euphorbiaceae	Finger Euphorbia	Ojuok	Hedge plant
Ficus benjamina	Moraceae	Java Fig	-	Shade tree
Ficus elastica	"	Wideleaf rubber	-	"
"Decora"	"	plant		
Ficus pumilia minima	"	Slender creeping Fig	-	"
Ficus sp.	"		-	Ornamental
Grevillea robusta	Protaeceae	Grevillea or Silk Oak	-	Orange yellow
Harrisonia abyssinica	Simaroubaceae	-	Pedo	
Hibiscus rose-sinensis	Malvaceae	Chinese Rose	-	Scarlet, yellow white
Ipomoea Kituiensis	Convolvulaceae	-	Obinju or Ongata	Lavender blue White
Jasminum pubescens	Oleaceae	Jasmine	-	White
Jatropha podagrica	Euphorbiaceae	Jatropha	-	Scarlet
Lantana camera	Verbenaceae	Bush Lantana	-	Orange to red
Malvaviscus penduliflorus	Malvaceae	Turks cup	-	Red
Mangifera indica	Nancardiaceae	Mango	Maembe	Food plant
Manihot esculenta	Euphorbiaceae	Cassava	Mariwa or Mwogo	Food plant
Markhamia platycalyx	Bignoniaceae	Markhamia	Siala	Yellow
Melia azedarach	Mellaceae	Persian Lilac	-	Lavender pink
Musa sepientum	Musaceae	Banana	Rabolo	Food plant

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The above list supersedes the one appearing on the back page of this Bulletin, but the other informations remains the same.

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This offers you free entry to the National Museum, Nairobi; free lectures, films, slide shows or discussions every month in Nairobi; field trips and camps led by experienced guides; free use of the Joint Society-National Museum Library (postal borrowing is possible); reciprocal arrangements with the Uganda Museum, Kampala; family participation; wives and children of members may attend most Society functions; one copy of the EANHS Bulletin every two months; a copy of each Journal published during your period of membership; the Society controls the ringing of birds in East Africa and welcomes new ringers and runs an active Nest Record Scheme; activities such as plant mapping and game counting are undertaken on a group basis. Membership rates are given at the foot of this page.

JOURNAL

The Society publishes The Journal of the East African Natural History Society and National Museum. Each issue consists of one paper, however, sometimes two or more short papers may be combined to form one number. The aim of this method of presentation is to ensure prompt publication of scientific information; a title page is issued at the end of each year so that the year's papers may be bound together. Contributions, which should be typed in double spacing on one side of the paper, with wide margins, should be sent to the Secretary, Box 44486, Nairobi, Kenya. Authors receive twenty-five reprints of their article free, provided that these are ordered at the time the proofs are returned.

E.A.N.H.S. BULLETIN

This is a duplicated magazine issued six times a year, which exists for the rapid publication of short notes, articles, letters and reviews. Contributions, which may be written in clear handwriting or typed, should be sent to The Editor (EANHS Bulletin), Box 44486, Nairobi, Kenya. Line drawings will be considered if they add to the value of the article. Photographs cannot be published.

SCOPUS

The Ornithological Sub-Committee publishes this bird journal five times a year. Cost: EANHS members KSHS.75/- p.a. All correspondence to D.A. Turner, Box 48019, Nairobi, Kenya.

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